

GS It's Time to Read



How are Veterans Day and Memorial Day different?

By Peter Grier
November 11, 2013

Why does the United States have a holiday named Veterans Day and one named Memorial Day? Don't they overlap a bit, with both celebrating the US armed forces and military service?

The quick answer to the Veterans Day question is that no, it honors a different, larger group of people than does Memorial Day. Veterans Day is about taking time to recognize all US service personnel from all wars. Memorial Day is a day set aside to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and died in the service of their country.

The longer, background answer is that their origins are also very different.

Both grew organically out of other holidays that commemorated the end of wars. Veterans Day was originally Armistice Day and took place on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, which was when the armistice that ended World War I took effect. Memorial Day was originally Decoration Day, when survivors and loved ones decorated the graves of those who perished in the Civil War. It is in the spring because that is when flowers bloom and thus can be gathered and placed on resting sites in memoriam.

Armistice Day was first celebrated in 1919 at the direction of President Wilson. The original idea was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a time of silence at 11 a.m., the hour of day the armistice took effect, according to a Department of Veterans Affairs history of the holiday.

Congress in 1926 passed a concurrent resolution that set aside Nov. 11 as a commemoration of World War I's end. At the time, lawmakers directed that the day should involve thanksgiving and prayer and "exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations."

In 1938, Congress passed another measure that made Armistice Day an official legal holiday. It was primarily for World War I veterans, and the cause of furthering world peace.

Then World War II intervened, followed by the conflict in Korea. Something more inclusive seemed appropriate. In 1954, Congress struck the word "Armistice" from its previous law and inserted in its place "Veterans."

Then the big shake-up of 1968 occurred. Congress passed another bill, this one the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill – legislation that aimed to shuffle certain US holidays around to create three-day weekends for increased leisure and business purposes.

Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day were the federal holidays picked to move to Mondays at the time. Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday in October. All but two states – Mississippi and South Dakota – voted to move state Veterans Day activities to the new date. But many states weren't happy about it. Veterans Day belonged in November, closer to the original source of the World War I Armistice Day, in this view.

By 1975, 25 states had voted to move their recognition of Veterans Day back to its original date, according to a US Army history of the holiday. Congress took note, and the same year Washington gave in and passed a law "to return the Federal observance of Veteran's Day to November 11, based on popular support throughout the nation."

That took effect in 1978.

~ Fuck My Life ~

FML#5: Today, my husband and I went for our 20 week scan and found out we're having a girl. The first thing he said to me was, "The next one better be a boy or I'm leaving you".

FML#6: Today, after doing vigorous chores all day with my girlfriend, her mom came and paid us each \$100. My girlfriend cried and threw a fit because she said they were her chores, so she deserves all the money.

FML#7: Today, I took my 13 year old fishing off the pier for dogfish. The only thing he caught was a piece of my ear.

~ Quote of the day ~

Be intent upon the perfection of the present day

William Law

I don't try to describe the future. I try to prevent it.

Ray Bradbury

~ Record ~

MOST TENNIS BALLS HELD IN THE HAND



Holders: Mahadeo Bhujbal (India)

Record: 23 tennis balls held in 5 sec.



Google Glass Will Expand Its Features Into Music

By BEN SISARIO

To sell Glass, its augmented-reality form of eyewear, Google has already tried to make it a fashion accessory and a must-have video device for any parent or sky diver. Now it is also presenting this \$1,500 piece of wearable technology as a way to interact with music.

Google unveils a set of features for Glass to search for songs, scan through saved playlists and listen to music in high fidelity. This can all be done while a user is wearing the lensless frames, which respond to vocal commands and have a small computer and transparent projection screen above the right eye.

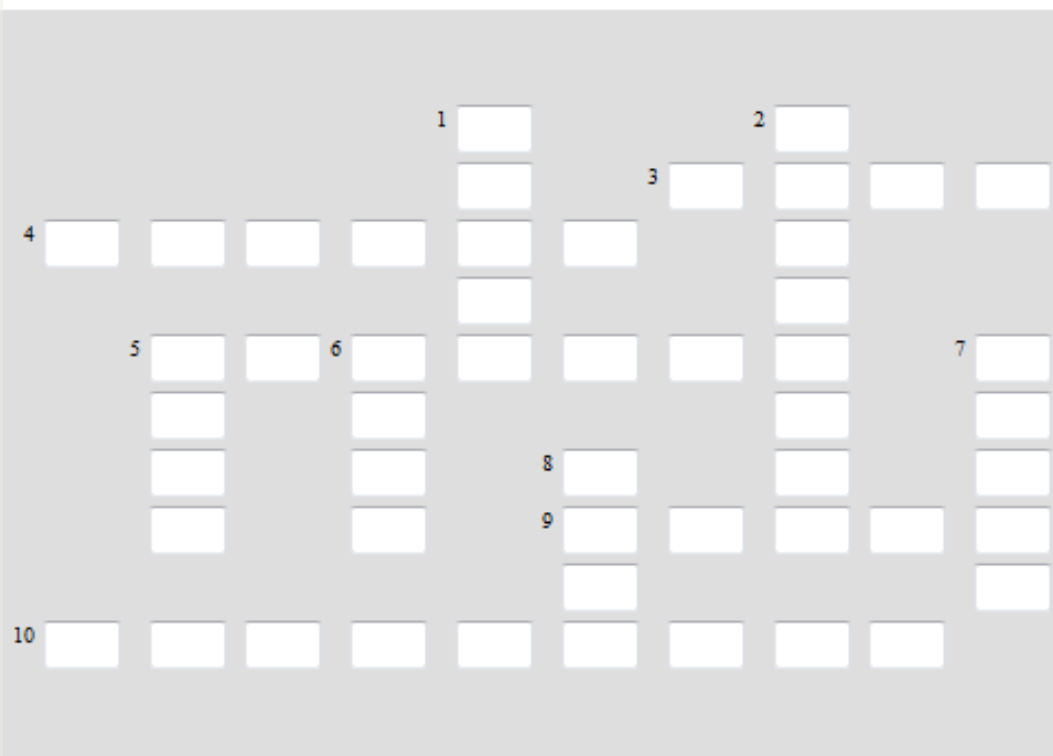
Users can link their Play accounts to have access to playlists and song recommendations based on what they have listened to in the past.

Google is also introducing a set of earbud headphones designed for Glass, which will be available by the end of the month for \$85. Sound Search, a feature introduced to Glass two months ago, acts like Shazam or SoundHound by identifying a song playing in the vicinity.

For now, only Google's music services are available on Glass, but others are expected to be introduced.

Part of Google's pitch for Glass is that its voice commands and easily visible display will free users from staring down at their smartphones all the time.

Parts of a House



Across

3. you enter the house here
4. it is made of glass
5. you sleep here
9. it is at the top of the house
10. it gives you warmth

Down

1. it is under your feet
2. it is below the rooms
5. you can wash yourself in it
6. open it to go to another room
7. it is outside the entrance
8. it separates rooms